

REMARKS

The Official Action of July 18, 2008, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application are now claims 1, 5-13, 16-18, 23 and 24, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claims 4, 14-15 and 19-22 have been cancelled and new claim 24 added. Claims 1, 5-13, 16-18, 23 and 24 remain in the application for consideration.

In response to the Examiner's objection to claims 12, 13 and 21 and rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicant has canceled claim 21 and amended claims 8, 12 and 13 to eliminate each of the problems identified by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's objection to and rejection of the claims has now been overcome.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claims 1 and 5 have been allowed and that claims 6-11, 16 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, Applicant has amended allowable claim 6 to include the features of independent claim 4 from which it had previously depended. Accordingly, in addition to claim 6, claims 7-11, 16 and 18 are also now allowable. Further, Applicant has amended rejected claims 12, 13 and 23 to depend from allowable independent claim 6, and amended rejected claim 17 to depend from allowed independent claim 1. Finally, Applicant has added new dependent claim 24 to correspond to allowable dependent claim 13 but depending from independent claim 6, rather than independent claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 5-13, 16-18, 23 and 24 are now allowable, and that this application is now in condition for allowance.


Appln. No. 10/553,318
Amdt. dated November 18, 2008
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2008

The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently pertinent to warrant their applications against any of applicant's claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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